



684.2673 DI

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: UNASSIGNED
YUTAKA BAN, ET AL.)
: Group Art Unit: UNASSIGNED
Application No.: 09/853,700)
:
Filed: May 14, 2001)
:
For: TONER SUPPLY CONTAINER) May 23, 2001
AND ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC :
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants filed a Divisional Application and a Preliminary Amendment on May 14, 2001. Prior to examination on the merits, please further amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claim 1 showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A toner supply container detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

a toner accommodating portion for accommodating toner;

a toner supply opening for discharging toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion;

a sealing member for unsealably sealing said toner supply opening; and

a toner feeding member for feeding the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion toward said toner supply opening;

wherein said sealing member is provided with a supported portion to be supported by the main assembly of the apparatus and a supporting portion for supporting an end portion of said toner feeding member.

Please add Claims 27-36 as follows:

--27. (New) A container according to Claim 1, wherein said supported portion is provided with a driving force receiving portion for receiving a driving force from the main assembly of the apparatus.

28. (New) A container according to Claim 27, wherein said toner feeding member is supplied with the driving force through said supporting portion.

29. (New) A container according to Claim 28, wherein said toner feeding member is rotated by the driving force.

30. (New) A container according to Claim 29, wherein said toner feeding member is provided with a shaft portion and spiral feeding portion, and said supporting portion an end of said shaft portion.

31. (New) A container according to any one of Claims 27-30, wherein an end of said toner feeding member is supported by said supporting portion even after said toner supply opening is brought into an unsealed state from a sealed state.

32. (New) A container according to Claim 31, wherein said toner feeding member is provided in said toner accommodating portion.

33. (New) A container according to Claim 32, wherein said supporting portion is disposed closer to said toner accommodating portion than said toner supply opening.

34.(New) A container according to Claim 31, wherein an end of said toner feeding member is engaged with said supporting portion.

35. (New) A container according to Claim 27, wherein when said toner supply container is mounted to the main assembly of the apparatus, said supported portion is supported by the main assembly of the apparatus.

36. (New) A container according to Claim 27, wherein the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion is discharged from said toner supply opening to the main assembly of the apparatus by said toner feeding member in accordance with consumption of the toner in the main assembly of the apparatus.--

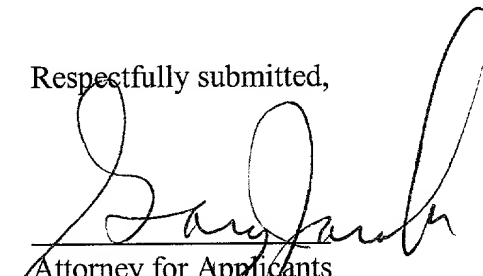
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 27-36 are pending. Claim 1 is independent.

Consideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A toner supply container detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, comprising:

[(a)] a toner accommodating portion for accommodating toner;

[(b)] a toner supply opening for discharging toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion;

a sealing member for unsealably sealing said toner supply opening; and

[(c)] a toner feeding member [including a toner feeding portion] for feeding the toner accommodated in said toner accommodating portion toward said toner supply opening; [by rotation thereof and an extension extending from the toner feeding portion, wherein a center of rotation of said toner feeding member is in an opening region of said toner supply opening as seen in the longitudinal direction of said toner feeding member,]

[wherein said toner feeding member penetrates through said toner supply opening to outside of said toner supply opening, and wherein said extension is provided with a portion to be rotatably supported by the main assembly of the apparatus] wherein said sealing member is provided with a supported portion to be supported by the main assembly of the apparatus and a supporting portion for supporting an end portion of said toner feeding member.